

The Palmateer

Volume 11, Number 1

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

April 2019

Below, manning the CFPACS table/tent at Mounts on April 13th, from left: Matthew Kennedy, John Kennedy, David Banfill.

(Photo by David Martin)



Above, "Palm & Cycad Sale" sign on Military Trail, West Palm Beach.

(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)

South Florida Field Trip & Meeting April 13-14, West Palm Beach

By Libby Luedeke

It's 4:00 a.m. Monday, April 15th. I woke up about a half hour ago thinking I would get back to sleep. Well, that's not happening because thoughts of the amazing weekend we had keep buzzing through my head.

It really all started with Keith Santner who bought a book *Designing with Palms* by Jason Dewees. Several months ago Keith brought this book to our attention, very excitedly got the rest of us interested and in planning our meetings for the coming

year. We all agreed it would be great to meet Jason and learn more.

Jason accepted our invitation to join us for our meeting and flew all the way from California to give us a presentation. We joined forces with the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society at Mounts Botanical for their spring palm and cycad sale and set up a booth to promote our group. We were very fortunate to add some new members to our society as well. That afternoon we gathered to enjoy Jason Dewees' informative

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Keith Santner, center back, introduces speaker Jason Dewees, standing right, in Mounts screened meeting room on April 13th. (Photo by Matthew Kennedy)



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The Palmateer

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The closing date for submission of material for the next issue is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

The Palmateer

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

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Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3825

(See Board List on page 21 for contact information.)

South Florida Field Trip & Meeting

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slide show displaying palms in landscape at select locations around the country.

There were comparisons of palms grown in various conditions showing how terrain, wind and soil can change the appearance of the palms. It is a great book to inspire cohesion between the existing environment and the treasures you wish to insert.

Many books about palms are created for the sole purpose of science, but this book inspires a poetic contemplation of space and theme. From what I could tell Jason enjoyed visiting with us as much as we enjoyed having him.

Dave Hall, our president, Tracy Hines, our treasurer, Jerry and I got together to rent a VRBO [Vacation Rental By Owner] in Lake Worth. Trace did all the research and found a quaint little place for us to stay. Little did we know when we arrived that it would be a palm paradise. Immediately upon arrival we started ex-

Jason Dewees, author of Designing with Palms, gives his presentation at Mounts on April 13th. The picture angle shows few of the 40 CFPACS members attending. (Photo by Libby Luedeke)



Here's the gang at the new cycad garden at Flamingo Gardens in Davie on April 14th. (Photo by David Martin)

ploring the grounds. There was a main house where the owners live and about 7 or 8 other units available to rent. The property was the size of a postage stamp, but they managed to fill it with approx. 350 different palms plus tons of other tropical plants and orchids, all designed by our resident palm god, Paul Craft, who organized lists and drew maps of this island of beauty.

Some of our members joined us there later to see the magnificent beauty of this space and joined us for a nice dinner thrown together in what seemed like minutes by Trace along with Maryann and myself as sous-chefs on the side and some grilling expertise by Dave Hall. Our gracious hosts were very generous in allowing us to invade their space and joined us briefly in our celebration and gave us a little tour. We thanked them for their generosity with the gift of Jason's book signed by him on site. Fortunately, they were thrilled by our enthusiasm for all their efforts in creating a beautiful space designed by palms! As a personal side note it just hap-

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South Florida Field Trip & Meeting

(Continued from page 3)

pened to be Jerry's and my 25th wedding anniversary. Trace and Maryann put their heads together helped us celebrate along with our palm society family. I thank you all for making it such fun and memorable. If you are interested in staying there in the future I have provided a couple of links, <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/15231317> or <https://www.vrbo.com/1401726> also <https://www.facebook.com/paradisepalms>.

The next morning we packed it all up and headed further south to Davie, FL and met up at Flamingo Gardens. Our main purpose for visiting was the new Charles L. Ross and Malcolm "Chip" Jones Cycad Garden which officially opened March 16th, 2019 featuring rare and endangered cycad species guided by Chip Jones himself. Flamingo Gardens is a small organization and the creation of the garden was a labor of love that included the help of Jesse Durko who

helped build and design it. Patrice Sonneliter and Keith Clark of Flamingo were instrumental in providing any assistance required. Patrick Griffith of Montgomery Botanical Center offered editing and advice and donated material. Mike Harris of Caribbean Palms Nursery donated material as well as Charlie Beck and Fairchild through Chad Husby.

Most of the plants and design and labor and fundraising were done by Chip Jones. We all packed onto the tram driven by Taylor and headed out to see it. This is part of the Wray Botanical Collection and features more than 100 species of cycads from Mexico, Cuba and the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia. Flamingo Gardens was able to raise \$80,000 to create this exhibit which is the biggest expansion they have had in 20 years. We hope that if you were not able to join us on this visit, or even if you were, that you will get an opportunity to visit this magnificent display again and again. They are continuing to expand this display. Our society did make a donation to help in the cause which it why it so vitally important to continue to

A glimpse of the private VRBO palm garden where several members stayed the night.

(Photo by Libby L.)



be members and try to recruit new members. It is truly a labor of love as many of these species are disappearing due to loss of habitat and it is a drop in the bucket at attempting to conserve these treasures.

Afterward, Chip allowed us to join him for a private gathering at his nursery to view and purchase rare and exotic plants and have a cook-out. This is a true treat of being a society member. He regaled us with stories of how he came to have many of the plants he has to offer and advice on potting mixes and pots sizes as well. Years of

trial and error experience that is priceless.

We couldn't have asked for a more welcoming experience and once again we are humbled by the open arms we have received not only by Chip and Chuck at Jones Landscaping Nursery, but the management and staff at Flamingo Gardens and Mounts Botanical as well. We also want to thank our members who made the effort to join us because it is out of our general area and lots of effort was made to attend. I hope you enjoy the pictures and plan to visit soon.



Above, a Coco de Mer palm (Lodoicea maldivica) at the private garden where reporter Libby Luedeke and husband Jerry spent the night. The Sea Coconut has the largest seed in the plant kingdom. Its fruit is shown at right.



City of Fruitland Park Receives CFPACS Grant

By Maryann Krisovitch

One of the missions of our Society is to provide education about palms and encourage their use in the landscape. The Society has worked with several public entities over the years, providing grant money and assistance on selection. Recently, the City of Fruitland Park constructed a new library and submitted a request for funding and guidance on the palms they could try.

Fruitland Park is located in central Florida about 40 miles northwest of Orlando and just a bit southeast of The Villages. Cold tolerance would certainly be one of the considerations.

The CFPACS Board of Directors approved their application and authorized our Membership Chairperson, Maryann Krisovitch, to oversee the project. After consulting with several Society members, four different types of palms were chosen to test in this region of Central Florida:

Bismarckia nobilis

Beccariophoenix alfredii

Allagoptera arenaria

Mule palm

Thanks to MB Palms in Orlando and REC Landscape Nursery in Groveland, the palms arrived at the end of January for installation. Under Maryann's supervision, 10 palms were installed by the Public Works staff. Fortunately, having designed all the landscaping for the library, Maryann had the opportunity to work with the irrigation contractor and had bubblers placed at the future locations of all the trees and palms. This made watering in much easier and more consistent.

As of the publishing of this article, the palms have been in the ground for three months. All are doing well with the exception of the *Bismarckia*. Its fronds are browning, but the new spears are being monitored. Fingers crossed!

If you know of another entity that may benefit from one of CFPACS



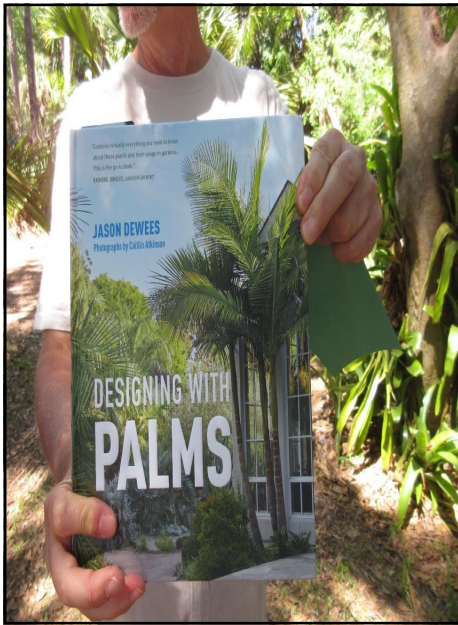
Beccariophoenix alfredii, left, and *Allagoptera arenaria*, right, planted in front of the new library in Fruitland Park. Below, struggling *Bismarckia*.

(Photos by Maryann)

grants, please let us know. Through the work of CFPACS and its members, we can continue to get the message out about different kinds of palms to use rather than the same old, same old. In the end, planting a wide variety of palms and cycads may help to encourage substitutes for those palms now being affected by palm decline, lethal yellowing and other diseases.



Designing with Palms: A Review



Keith Santner (above) brought a new palm book to the meeting: Designing with Palms by Jason Dewees. Breathtaking pictures of spectacular plantings. I suspect, however, that most of us have acquired palms one or two at a time without any idea of design. Indeed, small house lots don't usually leave much room for dramatic effects. Nevertheless, the book's pictures are enough to get folks salivating.

(Photo by Libby Luedeke)

Left, the picture and notice of the book that appeared in the March 2018 edition of *The Palmateer*.

Right, a deeper look after reading the book.

Designing with Palms (2018) by **Jason Dewees** is a very beautiful book with stunning pictures by Caitlin Atkinson. We've all seen beautiful palm books before that offered little beyond the pictures. **Dewees looks** at palms in a different way than most of us are accustomed to thinking. He sees palms as distinctly useful in creating attractive garden landscapes. His approach aims at the general reader.

I can't recall ever seeing much about palms as a design goal except perhaps for a few lines of advice in a general purpose palm book. According to Dewees, palms can be grouped and combined to great effect. And he explains what's in each picture. **While many** of the illustrated gardens are large—we are seeing how palms are used in a particular area of that large garden--the author also shows and describes

house entryways and small urban backyards can be turned into places of striking visual beauty. **Dewees explains** gardens in Hawaii, San Francisco, South Florida, and South Carolina, not using technical terms that might be unfamiliar to the reader. In addition, he includes a palm diagram that names all its parts. **The book** includes a listing of species for design, with sufficient information on each species. I could think of several species that might also have been included but realize that the space/pages are limited. I came away much impressed by the book. **One underlying** theme is that *restraint* is necessary to design; a limited number of species placed together creates the artistic effect. This book won the American Horticultural Society Book Award for 2019.

--John Kennedy

Quindío Botanical Garden, Calarcá, Colombia

By Mary Lock

Manager/Director/Vice President
of the W. S. Merwin Conservancy,
Maui

[https://merwinconservancy.org/
board-staff](https://merwinconservancy.org/board-staff)

Quindío Botanical Garden was in 2007. Thirteen expeditions over the last 11 years have expanded the palm collection at the garden to 210 out of the 252 species of palms and 44 of the 45 genera currently known in Colombia.

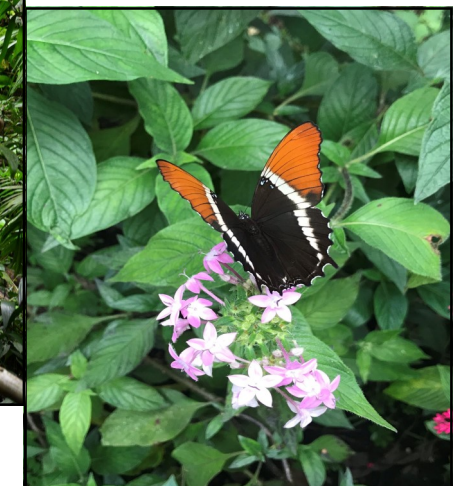
Collected seeds and seedlings often come from the remains of endangered forests, trails, and other fragile habitats, so harvesting becomes a rescue activity. **Planting of a *Syagrus orinocensis*** at the garden honoring the late Gloria Galeano-Garces. The IPS gave a \$2,000 grant to the garden for planting this palm from a seed collected in the wild by Rodrigo Bernal's recently deceased wife, botanist Gloria Galeano-Garces.



Left, Robert Blenker, IPS director, CFPACS member; Dr. Rodrigo Bernal, palm specialist, IPS member, formerly faculty at National University of Colombia; Héctor Favio Manrique Fierro, Director, Quindío Botanical Garden. Man at far right unidentified. Below, scenes at the garden.

The tree had significant meaning for the couple, being a subject of their research together for many years.

[Our thanks to Bob Blenker for arranging for this info about Quindío and sending the background for Bernal.—Editor]



Rodrigo Bernal González (born 1959) is a Colombian [botanist](#) who specializes in the [palm family](#). Bernal was a faculty member at the Institute of Natural Sciences, [National University of Colombia](#) until 2007. He received his [Ph.D.](#) from the [University of Aarhus, Denmark](#), in 1996. He was general curator of the National Colombian Herbarium (1986-1987), and editor of the scientific journal [Caldasia](#) (1989-1991, 1997-1999).

Bernal has published five books and 105 scientific papers and book chapters, most on them on palm [systematics](#), [ecology](#), uses and conservation. He has described one new genus ([Sabinaria](#)) and 25 new species of palms in the genera [Aiphanes](#), [Astrocaryum](#), [Bactris](#), [Chamaedorea](#), [Geonoma](#), [Oenocarpus](#), [Sabinaria](#), [Socratea](#), and [Wettinia](#). He has described also new species in the plant families [Cyclanthaceae](#), [Sapindaceae](#), and [Caprifoliaceae](#).

Bernal coauthored a *Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas*^[1] and a field guide to the palms of Colombia (2010). Bernal is also coauthor of [Common Names of Plants in Colombia](#), an online dictionary of over 18,000 common names applied to plants in Colombia, which provides information on the distribution of each name, and its corresponding scientific name. Since 2001 he has coordinated the production of the Catalogue of the Plants of Colombia, a checklist of the ca. 30,000 plant species occurring in Colombia. The production of this work involves 171 botanists in 19 countries. Since 2007 Bernal has been involved in building

Book Notice

Li, Nan, Stevenson, Dennis Wm., Griffith, M. Patrick (Eds.) (2019) *Cycad Biology and Conservation: The 9th International Conference on Cycad Biology* (Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden, Volume 117). Bronx, NY. 632 pp., \$116.99 (U. S.).

up the National Collection of Colombian Palms, an initiative to gather living specimens of all native Colombian palms at the [Quindío Botanic Garden](#), in [Calarcá](#). In 1996 he received the Sciences Award of the Fundación Alejandro Angel Escobar for In 1996 for the *Field guide to American palms* (co-authored by [Andrew Henderson](#) & [Gloria Galeano Garcés](#)).

[Biography from *Wikipedia*]

This massive book contains 34 papers given at the conference 1-7 December 2011, in Shenzhen, China, the work of 100 delegates from 15 countries. The presentations are organized in the Table of Contents into five sections: Anatomy (4 papers), Conservation (5 papers), Ecology (4 papers), Genetics (7 papers), Horticulture (5 papers), Pollination Biology (5 papers), Systematics (4 papers). The last paper in Systematics is the “World List of Cycads.” Much of the content is, of course, scientific examinations of botanical questions. However, as is usual in journals, the articles begin with abstracts of each paper’s content: topic, approach, conclusion. Very useful for readers to perceive whether they wish to delve more deeply into that paper.

Collectors are likely to be much interested in papers in the areas of Conservation (Chapters 6-10) and Horticulture (Chapters 22-26) Chapter 6 has an explanation of

the IUCN database that determines whether plants are endangered and to what degree. Chapter 7 details a 2010 meeting in Dublin on cycad collections in six botanical gardens. Chapter 9 presents an account of a Chinese village conserving *Cycas debaoensis*.

In Chapter 22 a team at Montgomery Botanical Center considers the efficacy of the familiar coffee ground mulch/drench of cycad species subject to infestation by the Asian Cycad Scale, *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*. The verdict, so far, is not entirely clear. Our own Tom Broome is mentioned here.

No one is going to read this collection of articles straight through, but is likely to return frequently for more information. There are tables and graphs enough to delight everyone, but few pictures. Some familiar names from Montgomery Botanical Center appear any number of times.



The Event Space on the north side of Mounts Botanical Garden, West Palm. Maybe 10 vendors—not all are visible here—at the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society spring sale on April 13th. Palm and cycad aficionados should keep in mind that there is another, fall sale some time in October.
(Photos by Matthew Kennedy)

Your Editor learned of the Cuban palm tour sponsored by the Tree Institute of Key West and Paul Craft when this publication was nearly complete. But it sounded so marvelous, that all the juicy details needed to go into *The Palmateer*. **See page 14 for the itinerary.** Ten days in

Cuba, looking at palms all day, then having dinner and socializing with others on the trip!! Maybe coming home to recuperate, but what an excursion! And if anyone needs more information about what everyone is looking at, who better

to provide this than Paul Craft, author of that wonderful book, *Palms of Cuba*? **However, space** is limited to 28 people and there are deadlines for trip expenses. See page 16.

Anyone going along to Cuba will (of course) pack a camera. Us homebodies would

love to see some of the great palm pictures. Contact me on your return so we, too, can enjoy the fun in the next issue of *The Palmateer*.

—John Kennedy

If you've never been to Rob Branch's place, when CFPACS visited, it's well worth the visit. Perfectly beautiful, aside from what's for sale. Below, from the flyer Rob sent out.

MOTHERS DAY (Open Saturday & Sunday)

MEMORIAL DAY (Open Monday)

LABOR DAY (Open Monday)

It's a Holiday and the Gardens are in Full Bloom!

OPEN 9am - 3pm

Admission is free.

Bring your camera and your friends.

Explore a variety of world-class plant collections.

Stroll the gardens at your own pace.

Garden sale

The owners and their favorite growers will be here to answer questions and offer landscape advice.

Special plants and unusual driftwood from the garden and selected growers will be available for purchase.

BRANCH RANCH TROPICAL GARDEN

Next to Sarasota Succulent Garden

1315 38th Street, Sarasota, Florida

(941) 358-4953

Rainforest Trail

Koi Pond & Waterfall

Cactus & Succulent Garden

Rare Palm Collection (over 240 varieties)

Thousands of colorful Bromeliads.

Aroids, Heliconias, Gingers,

Bamboo & much more!

Schippia concolor, Silver Pimento Palm

By John Kennedy

I bought *Schippia concolor*, Silver Pimento Palm as a 1-gallon plant at one of the sales of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, at least 20 years ago, maybe more. In yesteryear, I didn't keep much by way of records whenever I occasionally acquired another palm. How could I know that there would be so many on this half-acre lot? More than 100 of 80+ species.

Most of my palms back then (1980 and early '90s) came very small—to tiny—with no information about habitat or cultural conditions. Just buy, plant when it's a little bigger, and hope for the best. With this method, there were quite a few mortalities.

My successes happened when I unknowingly did something right. This is what occurred with the little *Schippia*. Not very showy,

really quite small, planted in partial shade on the edge of the back lawn, and finally with a trunk. It now has 4 feet of trunk, with leaves extending 7 feet high. I paid little attention to it until last summer when the palm bloomed for the first time.

Not all that many fruit, only 10. But these were striking. White but almost translucent, the size of large grapes. By this time the palm looked like a small *Thrinax* of some kind.

The seeds went into a 3-gallon pot in late summer. Germination happened in January.

I potted up the 6-inch seedlings last week, 7 of them to 1-gallon pots. Each had two wide leaves 6 inches high, but a root about the same length that was much bigger and more vigorous than I have encountered at this stage in other species—and they did not depart from the community pot without



My *Schippia concolor*, photo taken April 25, 2019.

a struggle. Then the pots were enclosed within a wire cage to keep the rabbits from munching and the squirrels from digging up in hopes of seeds.

I went looking for references to see if the species is salt-tolerant but most didn't mention this, so I assumed probably not. But I found one that said not salt-tolerant. I had wondered whether this palm could be grown on the lagoon side of the Indian River barrier island. But it is endemic to inland forests in Belize; its IUCN status is Vulnerable. Mine has survived short freezes over the years with little or no damage. Good size palm for small house lots, perhaps very slowly to 30 feet. The species is unusual in that all nourishment from the seed goes into the seedling before any leaves appear. **In the** summer ahead, if there are seeds in any number, I may be able to donate these to our Seed Bank. (Hear that, Jerry Luedeke?)



Our Bismarckia

(loving photos by the writer)

By Libby Luedeke

I think most palm lovers have a palm that makes a statement in their garden. In our case it's a *Bismarckia nobilis* (silver select) handpicked by Jack Miller from Botanics Wholesale in Martin County. We got it as a 30 gallon in 2009 and it is already at full girth at eye level.

This palm stops traffic in the street. Most of the palms we display in our front yard are not at maturity therefore not particularly tall. So the Bismarck really stands out not just because of the size but the color as well. We have it flanked by cycads and bromeliads so it can show off its stunning trunk.

Bismarckias are hardy palms originally from Madagascar where they grow in open grassland. It was named for the first chancellor of the German Empire, Prince Otto von Bismarck and the epithet for its only species, *Bismarckia nobilis*, comes

from Latin for 'noble'. It's a solitary trunk which gets ringed striations from old leaf bases. We anticipate it will reach a height of 50 ft. or so but they can get much taller in their natural habitat.

There is a green variety as well, but it is much less cold hardy. We live near Daytona Beach, thus above the freeze line so we get down into the mid to low 20's in winter and she has soldiered on with little fanfare. They are fairly drought tolerant as well once established. We Floridians know how important that can be. Although this is not a rare palm, it is beautiful and very tolerant of our climate. Once it gets a little trunk to it, it also becomes good protection for your understory plants for quite some time as it is not a particularly fast grower in our climate. It also has very large, stiff fronds.

Ours has weathered two hurricanes and looked a little beat up initially, but is looking great now.

Cuba Trip Itinerary and Cost

Cuba Trip 2019

November 1 – 10, 2019

10 days, 9 nights

Trip by the Tree Institute of Key West and Paul Craft

Particulars:

- Tree Institute Guide on entire trip
- Raul Verdeccia, the top palm botanist of Cuba, will accompany us on entire trip
- Maximum of 28 people on trip
- Optional activities on some days for spouses not wanting to visit palm habitats
- 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites will be seen
- Surprises on some days
- Price includes airfare roundtrip from Ft Lauderdale to Cuba, all required documents, travel through Cuba by motorcoach and medical insurance
- All meals included except 3 dinners where noted in highlights
- Price does not include tips or bag fees in Ft Lauderdale

- Trip insurance available through the Tree Institute

Day 1, November 1, 2019

Fly into Camaguey from Ft. Lauderdale.

If a morning flight then travel northeast toward Nuevitas to a habitat of *Copernicia cowellii*, *Copernicia hospita*, *Coccothrinax macroglossa*, *Coccothrinax pseudorigida* and perhaps the hybrid between the 2 *Coccothrinax* as well as *Copernicia x shaferi* and *Copernicia x dahlgreniana*.

Stay at Hotel Grand in Camaguey. Dinner.

Day 2, November 2, 2019

Explore northeast of Camaguey.

Go to another serpentine area and see *Copernicia hospita*, *Copernicia cowellii*, *Coccothrinax macroglossa*, *Coccothrinax pseudorigida*, hybrid between the 2 *Coccothrinax*, *Copernicia x dahlgreniana* and *Copernicia x shaferi*.

Go to *Copernicia rigida* habitat and also see *Copernicia x sueroana* and *Copernicia oxycalyx*.

See *Copernicia baileyana* habitat just west of *C. rigida*.

Go to Cayo Sabinal and see *Coccothrinax litoralis* as well as *Acrocomia crispa*, and possibly *Coccothrinax salvatoris* along the way.

For spouses who don't want to look at palms, there are lots of touristy and cultural things to do around Camaguey.

Stay at Hotel Grand in Camaguey. Dinner on your own.

(Continued on page 15)

Cuba Tour Itinerary

(Continued from page 14)

Day 3, November 3, 2019

Travel north to Cubitas and northwest toward Moron and then up to Cayo Coco.

Along the way see savannahs of *Coccothrinax macroglossa* and in Cubitas see *Coccothrinax muricata*, *Acrocomia crispa*, *Sabal maritima* and then travel on to see *Acrocomia aculeate*.

Stay at Hotel Mojito in Cayo Coco. Dinner at hotel with entertainment. Free drinks.

Day 4, November 4, 2019

See *Coccothrinax littoralis*, *Copernicia yarey*, *Thrinax radiata*, and *Pseudophoenix sargentii* in nature reserve.

For spouses who don't want to look at palms, do something more cultural or touristy in Cayo Coco or enjoy the hotel .

Stay at Hotel Mojito in Cayo Coco. Dinner at hotel with entertainment. Free drinks.

Day 5, November 5, 2019

Travel southwest to Ranchuela and Falla, then on to Sancti Spiritus and finally Trinidad.

See *Copernicia fallaensis*, possibly *Gaussia spirituana* if there is a fairly easy habitat to visit, then on to *Coccothrinax clarensis* and *Coccothrinax spirituana* areas and finally *Coccothrinax miraguama* at rest stop along the way.

Stay at Hotel Las Bristas in Trinidad. Free drinks. Dinner at paladar in town.

Day 6, November 6, 2019

Visit Cienfuegos Botanical Garden and *Copernicia brittonorum* habitat.

For spouses who don't want to look at palms, do something more cultural or touristy in Cienfuegos.

Stay at Hotel La Jagua in Cienfuegos.

Day 7, November 7, 2019

City tour of Cienfuegos. Travel to Havana and see *Coccothrinax borhidiana*, *Coccothrinax miraguama* subsp. *havanensis* along the way.

Stay at Hotel Capri in Havana. Dinner on your own.

Day 8, November 8, 2019

Travel to Pinar del Rio.

See *Gaussia princeps*, *Coccothrinax acuminata*, *Colpotherinx wrightii*, *Coccothrinax yuraguana*, *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*, *Copernicia glabrescens*, and *Roystonea regia*.

For spouses who don't want to look at palms, do something more cultural or touristy in Havana.

Stay at Hotel Capri in Havana. Dinner on your own.

Day 9, November 9, 2019

Visit the National Botanical Garden outside Havana, which has a large palmetum as well as areas devoted to various soil types and display

(Continued on page 16)

Cuba Tour Itinerary

(Continued from page 15)

gardens of other plant families. Part of the Garden is also divided into the plants of all the world's continents.

For spouses who don't want to look at palms, do something more cultural or touristy in Havana. Stay at Hotel Capri in Havana. Farewell dinner.

Day 10, November 10, 2019

Travel back to Ft. Lauderdale.

Further Notes

Some small changes may occur in the itinerary due to weather or other conditions that may cause changes to the travelling route. There is a good chance other palm species will be visited as well.

Price is \$3799.00 per person double occupancy or \$4599.00 per person single occupancy.

A deposit of \$700.00 is required when signing up of which \$350.00 is non-refundable.

Final payment is due July 15, 2019.

With only 28 openings, this trip should fill up quickly. Register early to guarantee your attendance!

Trip Application Form

November 1-10, 2019

Craft Cuba Palm Tour

\$3799 per person double occupancy \$4599 per person single occupancy

Deposit: \$700.00 (\$350.00 of the deposit is non-refundable)

\$350.00 is refundable until July 15, 2019.

Final payment due July 15, 2019 (non-refundable as of July 15, 2019)

You can pay your balance with a credit card or PayPal for a 3% noncash courtesy fee.

Instructions: In order to make your reservation and hold a space, fill out the trip application below and a \$700.00* deposit per person. (Checks only, please for deposit)

MARK YOUR CHECK MEMO "Craft Palm 2019 trip."

The check is to be made to: TREE Institute International (a 501 c-3 non-profit organization). DO NOT WRITE CUBA ON YOUR CHECK.

Mail your deposit check and this application form to:

**TREE Institute- 1075 Duval Street,
C-11, Key West, FL 33040**

You will receive an email confirmation upon receipt

Questions? Contact: treeinstitutetravel@gmail.com
866- 355-8733 866-FLK- TREE

Name _____

Address _____

Cell Phone _____ email _____

Single _____ (\$700.00 deposit)

Double _____ rooming with _____ (\$1,400.00 deposit)

Roommate Name _____

Roommate cell phone _____ email _____

Other notes:

We take care of getting your documentation, visas and all reservation starting in Miami or Fort Lauderdale. You are responsible for getting to Miami or Fort Lauderdale. The flight schedules for November 2019 will be announced April 1, 2019. The departure city will be confirmed then.

Payments are non-refundable as of July 15, 2019. On or about May 15, 2019, TREE will email you a registration packet with further instructions. It will also include information for optional trip cancellation/ interruption insurance. You can also call our office for details. The package includes medical coverage while in Cuba. No inoculations are required. About one month prior to the trip, we will have a required toll-free conference call to go over all the information for traveling to Cuba. The final payment and registration forms must be received by July 15, 2019.

*There is a \$50.00 processing fee for any refunds. For any information or final payments not received by the due date, there will be a \$100.00 expediting fee.

Right, Chip Jones explains the new cycad garden at Flamingo Botanical Gardens to CFPACS visitors on April 14th.
(Photo by Tracy Hines)



Left, Allagoptera arenaria inflorescence on palm planted with CFPACS grant at Fruitland Park Library.
(Photo by Maryann)

From the Editor's Desk

About 40 of us made the first day of the April 13-14th meeting at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm. For some, this may have been their first encounter with the spring plant sale of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society (PBCP), our friends to the south. I have been to both spring and fall sales (there's another ahead in October) in the past, though not in the last couple of years. CFPACS had a tent, table, and signs at Mounts. We took on several new members and late payment by others for the current year. I was happy to meet Ernest Rodriguez, the editor of the *Palm Beach Monthly Update*.

* * * *

Oh, yes, lots of palms and quite a few cycads. Maybe it was only my impression, but many of the

offerings seemed specimen size and price. I will need to ask whether our past president and the membership chair (our hosts for the December meeting) violated their rule of no purchases over \$10. But that held true in past years. Surely Ron and Maryann have raised the ante as a gesture to inflation. No more than \$15? Hey, there were some buys for that amount. And one of the vendors—I believe all are members of PBPC—had a goodly assortment of small palms at very reasonable prices. **However**, I have reached the stage of Golden Seniorhood where a palm that will form a trunk in 15 years no longer holds the magic it once did. I did come home with a 3-gallon Teddy Bear Palm (*Dypsis leptocheilos*) intended as a gift for a

friend and a Needle Palm purchased at very favorable price from a CFPACS member to replace my *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* that died in the winter. I'm not sure what I did or didn't do that caused this fatality. And, of course, how many palms over the years have gone to glory for no reason that I could fathom?

* * * *

An enjoyable event at our Mounts meeting was a presentation with PowerPoint slides by Jason Dewees, author of *Designing with Palms*, a truly beautiful and informative book that I bought last year. Jason brought copies with him which he signed for purchasers. See page 7 for a review of the book. I did have one irreverent thought during the presentation. Gee, Washingtonias seem to be the major palm on the California slides. Granted, that they look better there than in Florida and that one species (*W. filifera*, which

is not seen here) is native to California.

* * * *

Don't know about you, but I was pretty impressed with the Coco de Mer pictured on page 5. Haven't yet heard anyone in Central Florida bragging about theirs. But who knows? It's getting warmer, as we know. My mentor in palms, Bill Bidlingmayer, back in the old, cold days of the 1970s once wrapped a plugged-in electric blanket around a young *Thrinax* during a cold snap. Didn't burn down the house that night, either!

* * * *

I am waiting to learn what will be the New Palm this year that everyone must have next year. (Might it be Coco de Mer?) My imagination at work: "Right now a small group of the new species is growing in a remote valley in

(Continued on page 19)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 18)

Bolivia or Madagascar, not yet famous and desirable. Pinnate, I would think, possibly variegated, also cold hardy, moderately fast growing, and not more than about 30-35 feet high when mature. The information we are waiting for will appear, no later than fall, in a proclamation from a professional botanical journal or—I prefer—in *Palms* from the IPS."

John Kennedy

!WOW! What a fantastic time in South Florida. The feedback that I received was amazing. Everyone was having a great time. I hope everyone was able to buy a palm or two at the Mounts sale. There were many varieties to choose from that we normally don't find in Central Florida. I personally picked *Areca vestiaria* and *Areca catechu*. I pray for no more cold weather (ever) with these selections.

First, I would like to thank the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society for inviting and letting us set up our booth. We sold some t-shirts. Thanks to Libby and Jerry Luedeke for bringing them. We also signed up some new members. Thanks to all who helped at the booth to welcome these folks.

Second, I want to thank Jason Dewees for his awesome talk. His new book is *Designing with Palms*. "Beautiful, compelling, and scientifically accurate" is how the judges of The American Horticultural Society Book Awards described it when selecting it for their award in 2018. I have only had an opportunity to look through it

but already have a can't wait attitude about reading it. Member Keith Santner was instrumental in arranging his visit and stay. Thanks, Jason, for coming all the way from California to inspire us and share your time.

Third, I would like to recognize Chip Jones. The invitation to his nursery on Sunday was enjoyed by the membership as an event alone. He then allowed us to cook and serve lunch on his patio in his personal oasis space. Many took advantage of the opportunity to purchase cycads and palms from his collection. In addition, we must thank Chip and Keith Clark for arranging our private tour of Flamingo Gardens. The tour emphasized the new cycad garden which in part bears Chip's name. We will return to follow the maturation of this garden and the development of the future palm garden.

Finally, I would like to thank Capt. J. R. Frey and his lovely wife Vicky who were surprised by an impromptu dinner by twenty or so members in the courtyard of his home. Serendipity was in play when

we located the amazing Paradise Palms (VRBO and AirBNB) as our place to stay in Lake Worth. When we booked, we thought we had found a pretty cottage with a nicely landscaped pool. What we found was a collection of more than 300 palms in a garden designed by our own member Paul Craft. Our personal favorite was the Coco de Mer. His property also houses a vintage car collection which he graciously offered a tour of. The area we held the dinner in showcases his 1976 Harley Davidson enclosed within a glass top bar seating a modest 16 people. Trace, Libby, and Maryanne pulled together a fabulous spread for dinner and lunch the next day.

If you missed this event, make sure you make one of our next ones! We ask that you stay tuned for our summer meeting, think Gaylord Palms (air-conditioned) or some other Orlando venue.

—Dave Hall

PayPal Tutorial

Here is how to make a payment to CFPACS using PayPal

- 1) Log on to <http://www.paypal.com>
- 2) If you have a PayPal account, log into your account. If you do not have a PayPal account, click on the 'Personal' tab. Once on the 'Personal' page go to 'Send Money' and then 'Send Money Online.'
- 3) Once on the 'Send Money' page, type 'payments@cfpacs.com' in the 'To' field. Type in your email address in the 'From' field and the amount you wish to pay in the 'Amount' field.
- 4) From there you will be taken to a secure page where you can enter your name, address and credit card information.
- 5) When you are ready to finish up the payment process, please indicate whether your payment is for membership or seeds or t-shirts in the message field.

The International Palm Society (IPS)

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 quarterly journal

The Cycad Society

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Those joining before October 1 have access to all four issues of *The Palmateer* for the current year.



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The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties:

Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, and Volusia.

Close-up of a familiar sight: a Queen Palm inflorescence in front of the Clermont house. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)

